

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composite multilayer material, in particular for plain bearings or bushings, having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, an nickel intermediate layer and an overlay, wherein the overlay consists of about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and about 0 - 20 wt% silver, the combined maximum wt% of copper and silver being about 20 wt%, the rest being tin, and said intermediate layer being a single layer of nickel in direct contact with said bearing metal layer and said overlay, the layer thickness of the intermediate nickel layer being greater than 4 μ m as applied to said bearing metal layer.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the overlay comprises at least 0.5 - 20 wt.% copper and/or silver.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the overlay consists of about 2 - 8 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being tin.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the overlay is about 5 - 25 μ m.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the overlay is about 6 - 14 μ m.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the nickel layer is about 6 μ m - 8 μ m as applied to said bearing metal layer.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bearing metal layer comprises at least one of copper-aluminum, copper-tin, copper-tin-lead, copper-zinc, copper-zinc-silicon, copper-zinc-aluminum, aluminum-zinc or copper-aluminum-iron alloy.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, which has undergone an aging process and comprises an interdiffusion layer of substantially tin and nickel between the nickel intermediate layer and the overlay.

Claims 9 and 10 (CANCELLED)